

With the First Nighters

GARRICK

The wars and rumors of wars in the theatrical world are softening and if the latest story is to be believed, it will not be a great many months until theatrical interests of every description are welded in one big amalgamation—K. & E., the Shuberts, Belasco, Beck and Meyerfeld—all of the interests of every description, in the legitimate, vaudeville, burlesque, and in everything seen on the stage will be in one combination and it should really mean a good deal for the public as well as the soft hearted magnates as well. Such a combine ought to mean a reduction in prices for the people, and will mean a cut in salaries for many mediocre performers who can now hold up the managements of different circuits on account of the competition.

The theatrical business is almost a cinch combine at present, but should the Shuberts ally themselves with the others, it would probably spell the end of the battle that has been fiercely waged for several years.

It was thought in the beginning that the west in general and Salt Lake, San Francisco and Los Angeles, in particular, were to profit by the K. & E.-Shubert struggle, but the predictions have not been borne out by the companies sent for the west. By this is meant the number, for both at the Colonial and Salt Lake theatres there have been borne out by the companies sent to the year, though they have been few and far between with too many dark weeks at both houses. The other houses have, of course, profited thereby, but the first nighters have been somewhat disappointed in view of what was expected early in the year.

Salt Lakers are the most loyal supporters of good theatricals to be found anywhere, and as the California patronage is always excellent, there would seem to be little excuse for the limited number of good plays that are now sent westward.

ORPHEUM

The Orpheum's current bill is the best gloom-dispeller of the month. Ed Howard and Frank North in their rube sketch, "Back to Wellington," and Ergotti and his Lilliputians top the bill in two acts totally different and which meet only on the common ground of superiority. The drollery and yap humor in the Wellington sketch is inimitable and will probably prove the favorite of the crowds before the week is over.

The tumbling and strong arm work of Ergotti and the two Lilliputians, particularly the latter, makes an instant hit and nothing more clever than the work of the little men has graced an Orpheum bill here this season.

Keith and Kernan are collectively responsible for several worthless song numbers and some exceedingly novel and picture work. The artist of the pair delivers the goods and he'd improve the act considerable if he could cancel the engagement of the warbler with him.

"Early Morning Reflections" is a well written and cleverly acted farce by Sager Midgley, John Clark and Dawn Elton. It is a difficult sketch to present and in any but capable hands it would never get by.

Knute Erickson presents some fair impersonations, and there is more novelty than entertainment in diminutive Lily Schrieber. Phyllis Mackay's charming voice is the saving grace of a comedy sketch called "Apple Blossoms," which W. B. Patton and Frank B. Smith pretty nearly annihilated in their attempts to be funny. The pictures are rather uninteresting.

"The Bachelor" at popular prices is likely to give the Garrick a better week than is usually anticipated for the nine performances that precede Christmas week annually, pre-Christmas activities always working havoc with a theatre's attendance.

Clyde Fitch wrote "The Bachelor" a year or

Miss Clifton's characterization of Millicent Randall is well conceived and excellently acted. Louis Craig has a better part than for several weeks and plays it splendidly. Mr. Sumner is good, Mr. Totten does his bit faithfully, and Mr. Parker is himself.

The cast is small for "The Bachelor" and the play is light. The combination offers excellent entertainment.



MISS GRACE WASHBURN

One of the newest beauties of the stage, whose first appearance at the Winter Garden in New York made her the talk of the town. Her beauty of form and face brought her out of the chorus and into the limelight in a twinkling, and as she fortunately possesses real dramatic talent as well, the critics are predicting a great career for this sensational find.

so before his death and it was seen here with Charles Cherry as a Shubert attraction when that firm controlled the theatre on lower Main street several seasons ago and sent out Texas Guinan and one or two others. The comedy is light from start to finish, and Fitch gave the lines most of his attention.

"THE ROSARY"

The drama is rather long on sobs and heart aches, but as a whole averages up a little above mediocrity. There is not much that is new in the story, though the scenes and situations have been given a new twist or two and the